

Prince Heinrich and Prince Ferdinand at a so-called Tobacco Parliament *Tabakskollegium* (c. 1738-39)

Abstract

The all-male tobacco parliaments [*Tabakskollegien*] of Frederick William I (r. 1713-40) had little in common with the convivial smoking parties [*Tabagien*] of his father and predecessor, Frederick I (r. 1701-13). The “parliaments” were not particularly festive occasions; rather, they simply marked the end of the day-long working sessions that Frederick William I and his ministers held once a week.

In this scene, the king’s younger sons, Prince Heinrich (1726-1802) and Prince Ferdinand (1730-1813), interrupt one of their father’s tobacco parliaments, perhaps to bid him good night.

Source



Source: Oil painting by Georg Lisiewski, ca. 1738/39.

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